

Fearing House
Pasquotank County
200 South Road Street
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-169

HABS
NC,
70-ELIC,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

HAEC
N.C.
72-1-101
3-

Fearing House
Pasquotank County
200 South Road Street
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-169

GENERAL STATEMENT: The house is considered to be the oldest residence in Elizabeth City. The original or center portion is two and a half stories and includes four large rooms, two hallways with hand-carved paneling and hand-hewn heartwood timbers, fastened with wooden pegs and hand-wrought nails.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR

Orientation: The house faces west.

Foundation: Brick, laid in common bond, 4 courses equal 11".

Wall Construction: The older main portion of the house is lap siding laid 4 3/4" to the weather with 4 3/4" corner boards. The south wing is beaded siding laid 6 1/2" to the weather. The north wing is lap siding, approximately 4 1/2" to the weather.

Exterior Openings - Doors: The front door is six-panel with a rectangular transom.

Windows: All windows are double hung. The first floor windows are 9/6 and the second floor windows are 6/6. There are fixed slat blinds at the front windows of the center portion of the house as well as the two-wings.

Roof: Gabled roof with box cornice.

Chimneys: Four brick chimneys, two were built with the oldest center section, one with the south wing and one with the north wing. All are laid in common bond and 4 course equal 11".

INTERIOR

Stairways: The stairway is open string with square newel and balusters with moulded wood hand rail.

Floor: Wide pine boards.

Fearing House
Pasquotank County
200 South Road Street
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

82
HABS No. NC-169

Wall & Ceiling Finish: Plaster with moulded plaster cornice and medallion in living room. All walls have been papered.

Doors & Doorways: All doors on the first and second floors are six-panel with simple casings and are original. The doors on the third floor are board and batten. These are not original but are reproductions as the third floor was damaged by fire several years ago.

Hardware: The hardware on the first and second floor is said to be original.

HISTORICAL DATA

Date of Erection: 1740

Original & Subsequent Owners: The original (center) portion of the house was built for Charles Grice, a shipbuilder from Germantown, Pa., who was one of the Town's founders. Issiah Fearing, a New Englander, moved to Elizabeth City after the War of 1812 and married the sixth and widowed Mrs. Grice. Members of the Fearing family still own and occupy the house. The present owner is Mrs. Gertrude Evens Fearing.

Alterations & Additions: The south ell was added in 1825. The two-story columned portico and the north ell were added about 1880.

Reference: American Guide Series, "North Carolina, A Guide to the Old North State", compiled and written by the Federal Writers, Project of the Work Projects Administration. Published by the University of North Carolina Press. Copyright 1939, by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

The historical data was obtained from Mrs. Gertrude Evens Fearing in an interview, May 10, 1958.

Prepared By Russell D. Jones Date 12/4/58
HABS Architect

Approved By Dick Sutton Date 12/15/58
Chief Architect